

ELF claims fall of Asmara airport

ROME, Jan. 3 (R). — The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) said today that it had seized control of Asmara airport from defending Ethiopian forces. It confirmed, capture of the airport would be a devastating setback for Ethiopian forces which have been besieged in Asmara, Eritrea's capital, for months. The Ethiopians have been supplied by a massive airlift which began in 1975 when liberation forces stopped up their attacks. Road links to the coast and central Ethiopia have been cut for months. In London, a spokesman for the Ethiopian embassy dismissed the ELF claim as "patent nonsense."

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King Hussein visits Kuwait on way home

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein returned home from Tehran this afternoon at the end of a five-day official visit to Iran, during which he held talks with the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

On his way home, His Majesty visited Kuwait where he offered his condolences to the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the death of the late Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Chief of the Royal Court, the Court Minister and top officials.

He was received at the airport by Crown Prince Hassan, Princes Abdullah and Faisal, Premier Badran and senior officials.

King Hussein said before his departure from Tehran that the current Sadat-Begin talks would not yield any results at this stage and that Israel must come up with more realistic plans.

In an interview with the Kayhan newspaper here, the King added that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's "intransigence" had caused a serious setback to the present peace talks.

But, he believed, the majority of Palestinians and Arabs, including Syrian President Hafez Assad, would eventually support the current parleys if the Israelis accepted Arab terms.

King Hussein said that Mr. Assad might consider going to Geneva if the present talks resulted in an Israeli pledge to quit all occupied Arab areas.

The move for limited Palestinian autonomy and continued Israeli military presence on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which Mr. Begin suggested to President Sadat on Christmas Day at Ismailia was "under no circumstances acceptable."

The King gave personal support to Mr. Sadat's initiative, and said it was vital that the move be reciprocated by the Israelis. A peace settlement without Palestinian participation would be pointless, he added.



SHAWL FOR FIRST LADY — First Lady Rosalynn Carter is seen waving to villagers in a town near New Delhi Tuesday after she received a colorful shawl as a gift. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter toured the village before departing for Saudi Arabia. (AP wirephoto)

Carter hopes to sway Saudi Arabia to U.S. position on Mideast peace

RIYADH, Jan. 3 (Agencies). — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia welcomed U.S. President Jimmy Carter on his arrival here today from India thanking him for his "efforts for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." Mr. Carter, who is scheduled to spend only 15 hours in Saudi Arabia, declared that peace was "the primary purpose of this visit" and of his entire seven-nation tour.

Speaking several words of Arabic, Mr. Carter stressed that the ties between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia were "unbreakable."

The Palestinian problem was high on the agenda of Mr. Carter's talks with King Khaled tonight.

Senior American officials predicted that King Khaled would press Mr. Carter to support the principle of self-determination for the people of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip.

But they also said: "It would appear they may be in the process of moving to our approach on the Palestinian issue."

President Carter last week reiterated that he favored a Palestinian homeland with links to Jordan, not an independent state in which the Palestine Liberation Organization presumes to exercise its authority.

His statement upset President Anwar Sadat, who said Mr. Carter was complicating the search for peace in the Middle East.

U.S. officials did not believe Saudi Arabia would reach a quick decision on any changes in its view on the Palestinian issue, or did they expect any dramatic announcements before Mr. Carter goes to Aswan, in Upper Egypt, tomorrow to confer with President Sadat.

Arab diplomats said King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd intended to tell Mr. Carter that the United States should exert heavy pressure on Israel for concessions justifying open Arab support for President Sadat's peace initiative.

American officials said three subjects, in addition to the Middle East, were on Mr. Carter's agenda for his talks with Saudi leaders.

One of the topics was the fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia, about which Mr. Carter expressed concern when he visited Iran on Saturday.

The second item was long-range oil pricing and supplies. Saudi Arabia, a major oil exporter to the United States, led a successful fight last month to freeze until next summer prices charged by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The third was the strength of the dollar and the massive dollar reserves accumulated by Saudi Arabia. American officials said they believed the Saudis had reserves equivalent to \$60 billion, of which 85 per cent were American dollars.

The officials said Mr. Carter would have a number of questions to put to Mr. Sadat when they meet in Aswan tomorrow.

They reported that Mr. Carter wanted to know what positions President Sadat would put forward when full negotiations begin with Israel this month and what were his specific objections to Israel's proposal for self-rule for West Bank and Gaza Palestinians.

In his talks with Mr. Menachem Begin in Ismailia last month, Mr. Sadat said he could not accept a plan for a co-

It was issued in place of a joint communiqué that had been planned.

Deep differences remained between India and the U.S. on questions of nuclear policy.

The U.S. has been pressing India to accept full international safeguards in return for the supply of nuclear fuel and to sign the non-proliferation treaty.

Prime Minister Morarji Desai however today reaffirmed that the nuclear powers had no right to advise others to sign the non-proliferation treaty unless they themselves agreed to a total ban on nuclear tests.

On the other hand, the first personal contact between the heads of the two biggest democracies in the world augured a return to the good Indian-American relations of the 1950's.

Israel will not go beyond self-rule for Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (R). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin declared today that Israel will stick to its offer of limited self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Talking to reporters after a press conference, Mr. Begin said the Egyptian leader should not ask President Carter to try and squeeze greater concessions out of Israel.

"I never asked the U.S. to pressure Egypt," Mr. Begin said. "We are now in the midst of serious negotiations and this cannot be done under pressure, either on Israel or Egypt."

Israeli officials today studied with interest reports from Aswan that President Anwar Sadat will now tell President Carter he does not insist on the immediate creation of a Palestinian state and would in fact prefer the West Bank to be linked with Jordan.

Before today's cabinet meeting, it was believed that the attitude to be adopted in the Jerusalem talks between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel later this month would be a major topic of discussion.

But a terse announcement after the cabinet session said nothing about the ministerial deliberations.

pants have bitterly complained that under the terms Mr. Begin proposed to Mr. Sadat, they are being abandoned.

During the day about a dozen members of the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim bloc were preparing a new site for settlement near Nablus, one of the main towns on the West Bank.

A Gush Emunim spokesman said the new site, on the Gush Emunim road, had been approved by the government. The government officials denied the move.

The move to establish a new site today seemed to be a gesture against the Gush Emunim bloc, and as the betters of their aspirations.

There was some speculation that the government might take a tough

port of the settlers when the Jerusalem talks start. One of the Israeli negotiators will be former Gen. Ariel Sharon, hero of the 1973 Israeli thrust across the Suez Canal, who is now agriculture minister and in charge of settlement policy.

Begin's message to Carter

It was reported in Tel Aviv today that Prime Minister Begin has sent a message to President Carter on his meeting tomorrow with President Sadat.

The message rejected any modification of Mr. Begin's plan for limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if that modification could lead to the establishment of the principle of Palestinian sovereignty, the newspaper Yediot Aharonot said.

Arafat: U.S. has wrecked M.E. peace

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R). — Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, in an interview published in the Guardian today declared the "Palestinian revolution is the most important factor in the Middle East equation" and alleged that the United States had wrecked peace efforts.

In an exclusive interview with David Hirst in Beirut, Mr. Arafat said: "First, it must be understood that we shall not abandon our struggle for peace in the area, but it must be a just peace, not at our expense. What happened, however, is that America unfortunately wrecked the whole thing... it demonstrated its flagrant bias."

He said that in his proposals Prime Minister Menachem Begin offered the Palestinians less than Southern African Bantustans. "Swaziland has more rights than we would have," he said.

Mr. Arafat added: "So it is not us who are wrecking the chances for peace in the area. It is Begin, it is Carter, it is the U.S. who are wrecking it. It is the man responsible. So when he says 'farewell' to the PLO, what he really should be saying is 'farewell' to his interests in this area."

Asked whether in practical terms, "farewell" to American interests meant that the Palestinians were going to start blowing up officials, Mr. Arafat replied: "I'm not talking about these things. But they have to understand that nobody can say farewell to the PLO without jeopardizing his own interest. I am not threatening them — it is they who have threatened us."

In further answers he said: "We are not communists, especially those of us in Fatah. We are a progressive movement. Even our friends in the Soviet Union know we are not communists."

He said that the current, created by the recent Tripoli summit of the headline Arab states who have opposed President Sadat's talks with Israel was winning.

"It may be slow, but it is enduring. And it has triumphed all over the area — in Egypt, Sudan, all over North Africa, Morocco to the Gulf, and we have allies, strong allies."

BEIRUT, Jan. 3 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organization today dismissed as pure fabrication an Egyptian newspaper report that Mr. Yasser Arafat had sent a message to PLO leaders in Cairo saying he had been the target of two assassination attempts last month.

The Cairo newspaper Al Gomhouriya said today Mr. Arafat had claimed that dissident Palestinians had tried to kill him.

A PLO spokesman, commenting on the report, said Mr. Arafat "has for a long time sent no messages to Palestinians residing in Cairo. Accordingly the report published by Al Gomhouriya newspaper is pure fabrication."

The denial made no explicit reference to the alleged assassination attempts.

The report was also dismissed by the PLO's Political Department, which told Reuters in Cairo today it had no knowledge of such a message.

Hussein: Arabs will negotiate if Israel accepts key issues

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JWA). — His Majesty King Hussein said that current peace efforts will not lead into any positive results unless the Israelis turned more realistic and announced their readiness to withdraw from all occupied lands, he told the Iranian newspaper Kayhan.

King Hussein stated that the majority of Palestinians and Arabs, including Syria, would participate in the peace negotiations if the Israelis agreed to the key Arab conditions, among which total withdrawal tops the list. His Majesty went on to say that any peace settlement will be meaningless without the participation of the Palestinians.

A semblance of autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under Israeli military occupation is rejected, the King added. If Israel insists on this condition it means that peace talks will not succeed, he stated.

Boumedienne in Baghdad

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R). — Algerian President Houari Boumedienne arrived in Baghdad tonight in what appeared to be the latest move by hardline Arab states to concert their opposition to Egypt's peace initiative with Israel.

The Iraq News Agency, reporting that President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr met the Algerian leader at the airport, gave no reason for his unscheduled visit.

But Iraq has invited other rejectionist states to meet in a summit conference in Baghdad later this month to discuss the implementation of proposals made at an earlier summit in Tripoli last month to block President Anwar Sadat's peace move.

In Beirut, the Iraqi embassy issued a statement saying that the Baghdad government would resist any pressure aimed at bringing its policies into line with those of other Arab states opposed to Egypt's initiative.

Congress expels Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The Brahmin Hindu faction in the opposition Congress Party today expelled former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and all other congressmen who have joined her new party.

The Convention of Congressmen organized by Mrs. Gandhi's supporters decided yesterday to sever ties with the Gandhi faction. It expelled Mrs. Gandhi as the president of the party.

Begin's on-off visit to Paris off again

PARIS, Jan. 3 (R). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing today ruled out an official visit to France by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin before a general election due here in mid-March.

But Mr. Begin is welcome to Paris in an informal capacity any time he chooses to discuss a specific problem, he added.

The French president, who was speaking to journalists at a New Year's reception, said an official visit by the Israeli Prime Minister would take place in due course, but after the French election.

The on-off visit by Mr. Begin has caused some tension in Franco-Israeli relations since President Giscard d'Estaing conveyed a formal invitation to the Israeli Prime Minister last autumn. The invitation was handed over by former French Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas during a visit to Israel last October.

Two weeks ago, President Giscard d'Estaing renewed his invitation when he dispatched one of his closest advisers, Mr. Jean Francois-Poncet, to see Mr. Begin in London.

Early last year, the French President invited Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, then Prime Minister of Israel, to pay an official visit to France. But it could not take place because of the Israeli elections which brought Mr. Begin to power.

Relations between France and Israel are now moving gradually back to normal after a period of severe strain because of pro-Arab policies here.

French Prime Minister Raymond Barre said recently: "Despite some ups and downs, Franco-Israeli relations are based on mutual esteem and so-called friendship. I hope that in the coming years the relations between our two countries will be good and that the problems facing Israel and the other countries in the area will be settled peacefully."

Bomb explodes in Bulgarian consul's car in Beirut

BEIRUT, Jan. 2 (R). — A bomb exploded in the car of the Bulgarian consul in Beirut, Mr. Ilya Zahov, last night, security sources said here today. After the explosion a second bomb was found and defused near Mr. Zahov's home in the fashionable Ramleh Beirut district of West Beirut.

Officials in Aswan say: Egypt does not insist on immediate creation of Palestinian state

ASWAN, Egypt, Jan. 3 (R). — On the eve of Middle East peace talks between President Carter and President Sadat in this winter resort, Egyptian officials hinted today at fresh moves to resolve the vital Palestinian issue.

Egyptian officials in Aswan said Mr. Sadat will tell Mr. Carter that Egypt is not asking for the immediate creation of a Palestinian state and would in any case prefer the territory to be linked with Jordan.

"Self-determination does not necessarily mean the immediate creation of an independent Palestinian state," one official said. "Egypt can accept the idea of a homeland as an initial step that will eventually lead to a state over a specific period of time."

However, the Foreign Affairs Commission of the People's Assembly today demanded Israel's total withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967 as a priority.

In a communique, the parliamentary commission said it rejected "any Israeli control whatsoever in these territories" and referred to United Nations resolutions on the issue.

The commission also urged refusal of "any proposal intended to maintain Israeli settlements in Arab territory."

The communique stressed "the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state."

"Nov. 19" group says it assassinated West Bank "collaborator"

BEIRUT, Jan. 3 (AFP). — A hitherto-unknown Palestinian group called the Nov. 19 Organisation claimed responsibility here today for assassinating a city official of Hebron on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

The victim, Hajj Al Ja'fari, 34, a relative of former Hebron Mayor Mohammad Ali Al Ja'fari was found dead from several bullet wounds yesterday in a wood near Hebron where he was hunting, Israeli newspapers reported.

He went to Egypt a few days ago with a delegation of West Bank dignitaries to show support for President Anwar Sadat's peace move.

An anonymous phone caller told the Beirut bureau of Agence "France-Presse" that Mr. Al Ja'fari was a "traitor" on the "list of paid agents drawn up by the Palestinian resistance" and was therefore executed.

The Nov. 19 Organisation apparently was named after the date on which President Sadat went to Israel, a black date for Palestinian hardliners.

A newspaper in Qatar reported several days ago that a list of 34 West Bank dignitaries had been marked for execution by Al Fatah the main group of Palestinian guerrillas.

The newspaper, Al Fatah, said today that West Bank dignitaries have pledged since then to refrain from cooperating with Israel, and have pledged with Fatah commander Yasser Arafat to stop their executions.

Hajj Qadi, an official of the West Bank town of Ramallah, was murdered on Dec. 28. He had expressed support for Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's proposal of limited autonomy for the West Bank.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, also headed by Mr. Arafat, announced that it executed him.

Schmidt to see Carter at Aswan

BONN, Jan. 3 (Agencies). — President Jimmy Carter and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will have a brief meeting tomorrow in Aswan, a government spokesman announced here today.

Chancellor Schmidt is on holiday at the Egyptian winter resort of Luxor following talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat last week.

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Hello, bye bye

The unanimous feeling in the Arab World this week, which will be transmitted to President Carter of the United States during his stops in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, is that the United States must muster its certitude and its bravado and confront Israel with the fact that the "peace" proposals of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin are far from being good enough for a real peace agreement.

Within this context, it becomes inappropriate, even ridiculous, for the American National Security Council head, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, to say, as he did the other day, that as far as the United States is concerned it is now "bye, bye PLO". This is not the role of a mediator, nor, one suggests, that of a gentleman.

It is not for the United States to pronounce on who speaks for the Palestinians, or whether it is bye, bye or hello, hello PLO. The Palestinians themselves and the Arab people as a whole will say who represents the Palestinians, a decision that up until now has been taken in favour of the PLO, according to the latest consensus on this point, which is the decision of the 1974 Arab summit at Rabat.

What the Americans need to remember is that the Palestinians and the PLO were on the scene long before Dr. Brzezinski and President Carter were in the White House, and will be on the scene long after the Carter-Brzezinski team is out of the White House.

The Americans need to understand, if they have not understood from their experiences in Vietnam, that the world is not a cocktail party to which they have exclusive rights to issue invitations. Their role in the Middle East is to help bring the battling parties to a negotiated settlement at the conference table, and not to decide themselves who is and who is not eligible to sit at the table.

The Arabs will let Mr. Carter know this week that he must not bow to domestic American pressures and try to solve the Middle East problem by making believe one group of people does not exist, but rather that he should stand up to his domestic constraints and make the Israelis face up to the hard realities of Palestinian rights. Otherwise, it will be bye, bye to any hope of a meaningful peace in the Middle East, which will only mean that when the Americans next come flying through the Middle East on their peace planes they will be met with a resounding ho, ho, ho.

That would be bad for all, and should be avoided.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, on Tuesday, said observers believe the Carter administration faces two alternatives of action now that Israeli stubbornness has brought to an impasse the current peace initiative; either to convince the Arabs of offering additional concessions or to pressure Israel into accepting the peace effort presently working on the basis of total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and of recognising national Palestinian rights. But observers are pessimistic and think President Carter will be unable to realise either alternative. Hence, there seems to be no way out of the impasse except through a will stronger than the will of occupation but which the Arabs seem to lack.

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National News Roundup

Korean ambassador named

HONG KONG, Jan. 3 (R). — North Korea has named Mr. Li Sok Ryong as its Ambassador to Jordan, the Korean Central News Agency reported today.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The second showing of Shakespeare's King Lear, directed by Peter Brook, takes place tonight at 6:30 at the British Council. Pick up your tickets before the performance.

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Prince Hassan chairs preparatory science and technology meet

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JT). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today chaired a meeting of Jordan's senior technocrats at the Royal Scientific Society to prepare for the science and technology conference due to be held here next month.

Four cabinet ministers, representatives of the private sector and Jordan's development experts sat in on the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology Policy for Jordan which will convene here Feb. 18-22.

The conference will group 200 Jordanians and representatives of about 25 countries and 12 international organisations to draw up recommendations on the best framework to integrate this country's future science and technology policy with its development plans. This might involve setting up new institutions and passing new legislation to direct the country's policy in this field, prevent duplication of efforts and chart the most efficient path to scientific and technological development in the Kingdom in keeping with the needs of local industry and the government's priorities.

The conference will also allow foreign experts to contribute their ideas and give Jordan some feedback on its efforts

to date in this line.

Jordan has prepared five working papers to be discussed at the conference on this country's science and technology potential, its priorities for science and technology in relation to development, cooperation at regional and international levels in this field, legislation relating to national science and technology policy and the existing technological infrastructure in Jordan.

Prince Hassan suggested that the framework and agenda for the conference be flexible so as to allow top international experts scope to delve into more specialised and less regional-bound areas of interest while allowing others to concentrate on the main business at hand which relates to the uniquely Jordanian and regional dimensions of the problem.

Present at the meeting were Minister of Education Abdul Salam Al Majali, Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas, Minister of Supply Marwan Al Qasbi, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, President of the National Planning Council Hanna Odeh and Director of the Royal Scientific Society Dr. Albert Butros.



Crown Prince Hassan chairs the preparatory meeting for the science and technology conference at the Royal Scientific Society Tuesday. (JNA photo)

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Animal Health Department has big task on its hands

Ginette Devaney visited the office of Dr. Mahmud Gharaibeh who is the Assistant General Director of the Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in Amman. His job covers all animal health and reproduction in the whole of Jordan, and he has numerous clinics and sub-clinics dotted about the country, under his control.

The Animal Health Department was founded in 1948 by King Abdullah who fully realised the necessity of modern methods of animal husbandry and medical health. The first veterinary officer was from Cairo and he was the sole representative of his Department. He travelled the country on horseback attending as best he could do the many problems which arose, trying to educate his clients in modern methods and ideas. He also attended the King's horses.

Animal health and welfare is not a new thing in this part of the world, being mentioned as important in many old Arab books and manuscripts. What was new, and the people found difficult to adapt to, was the fact of animals having their own special doctors -- up until then, anyone with only a smattering of knowledge picked over the years by trial and error could attend to the needs of the various animals.

Similarly, in England, where until the founding of the Royal Veterinary College and the establishment of a veterinary profession, farriers or blacksmiths were the unofficial animal doctors.

From the time of its establishment the Animal Health Department has developed into a large unit with comprehensive cover of all aspects of veterinary sciences. The General Director, under whom Dr. Gharaibeh works, controls five sections covering quarantine, infectious diseases, animal reproduction, artificial insemination and the laboratory.

Each section has numerous veterinary surgeons attached to it, all fully qualified and highly trained. There are also stock inspectors attached to the infectious diseases department and qualified agricultural engineers working in the animal reproduction unit.

As well as veterinary surgeons, engineers and inspectors, there are also assistants and helpers in all departments.

In each of Jordan's provinces there is a veterinary clinic fully staffed and open at all times for advice and consultation.

Each province is divided into districts and these districts are also catered for, having various sub-clinics, also fully staffed. Experts from the central offices in Amman are always on call to go out to any of the clinics if needed. They also travel from area to area on supervisory visits.

At present there are five veterinary surgeons and one technician from Europe in government sponsored exchange visits.

Four of the veterinary officers are from Germany, one in Irbid, one in Karak and two in Amman. The other veterinary surgeon and the technician are both British working at the Animal Health Laboratories here in Amman -- so international cooperation is a happy offshoot of the Department's activities.

The clinics in the provinces and districts are not only used by Jordanian nationals but also by the many Saudi Arabian and Syrian bedouin and travellers who frequently cross the national border.

All are welcomed by the Department's staff and receive advice on animal pest control, the best feeding and nutritional systems and of course, drugs and medicines where needed.

Most treatment sought is for the many flocks of sheep and goats owned by the clients and since their introduction from Holland in 1950, the hundreds of cattle now owned by farmers here.

In the south there are a great number of camels; some



Vets of the Animal Health Department visit rural farmers to inspect livestock.

owned privately by the bedouin to whom these animals are the gift of God and provide all their needs, and others owned by the Public Security Division, the famed Desert Patrol of the Wadi Rum and other desert areas.

The military camels are very important and detailed reports have to be submitted whenever one dies or is chronically ill.

Dr. Gharaibeh did his initial training at Cairo University, but after eight years of government work in Jordan, he was sent to the Royal Veterinary College in London under the auspices of the British Council. Here, after a two year, full-time course, he gained his masters degree and returned to Jordan as the Chief Veterinary Officer in the Animal Health Institute Laboratories for the Amman district. After two years he was appointed to his present job.

As in many other parts of the world Jordan now uses intensive farming methods, mainly with poultry, and the licensing, checking and inspection of these establishments is another of the Veterinary Department's responsibilities.

In the 1950s eating poultry was a luxury, now it is commonplace and relatively inexpensive. The farms are privately owned, mainly in the Amman area, also Zarqa and so-

on to be in Irbid.

Another of the Department's very important concerns is the control and inspection of dead meat and livestock intended for the abattoirs, that arrive in Jordan by air through Amman and by sea via Agaba.

Meat and livestock come from such diverse countries as Italy, Norway, Holland, India, New Zealand and Australia.

Live animals have to undergo a two week quarantine period to check and test for disease before transportation to the abattoirs both in Amman and in the outlying districts.

Although the abattoirs are run by the Municipalities of the areas concerned who have their own veterinary officers, the Department is called in for any case of disease or infection.

From being a one man show in 1948 to being a vast, country-wide, modern Department in 1977, the Animal Health Department has entered into the 20th century by leaps and bounds, like many other of Jordan's institutions. Modern techniques of education, help and advice together with the best drugs and medicines available, have given this country a veterinary service second to none in the Arab World.

International cooperation and collaboration ensure that all that is best in the world of modern veterinary science is shared by Jordan's ever increasing and fast developing rural and agricultural population.

To be continued

In U.S. men are more likely to be attacked than women

WASHINGTON (AFP). — Between 1960 and 1975 the number of crimes of violence trebled in the U.S., a Commerce Department report showed here. And a man has twice as much chance of being attacked than a woman.

The United States is eating more meat these days, but fewer dairy products.

Infant mortality is on the decline but it still exceeds that of Japan and Scandinavia, the report also showed.

Horse racing seems to be the favourite sport in the U.S., ahead of football and baseball.

Americans are spending 17 per cent less on food and clothing than 20 years ago, but five times more on medical treatment, than in 1948.

The nation spends 27.8 per cent of income on homes compared with 21.7 per cent just after world War II.

Econoscope

730 days, but who is counting?

By Jawad Ahmad

Two years ago this column started appearing on Tuesdays in the Jordan Times. When I was approached with the idea by the editor of the Jordan Times I never thought it would last more than six months.

Reviewing the materials published I realise how much I have changed. From an immature, fresh, Ph.D. graduate I have grown into a man with blurred image.

Still influenced by the theories and nicely arranged syllogisms, I wrote mostly on methodological questions. Now I write on politics and I even dare suggest some when I have courage, or merely imply them when I lack it.

Two years ago I was in charge of the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank. I could afford then the luxury of being critical and cynical. Now I am a true-blooded government official who is afraid that his critiques might bounce back on his head.

Too many events took place during the last two years. Their colour arrangements and tones are so varied when viewed individually, but seem to be of the same species when viewed together at a quick glance.

Everything has changed, even I. When I first began writing, Jordan was still preoccupied with land speculation and monetary inflation. Now those events belong to the past

and labour shortages seem to override everything. Should that imply anything? Yes it should, but I don't know what.

Could it be that economic events happen because of extraterrestrial powers which are beyond our control? Or could it be that our ad hoc responses in face of emergencies create other emergencies that impose other ad hoc responses? Is there a long-run hideous trend that one cannot see or touch?

I do not know. But you see my genius lies in the fact that I pose questions for which I have no answers.

The editors of the Jordan Times realise this weakness in me and that is why they have not increased my remuneration. Probably if they do my insight will be flushed out and answers will become available.

It is the third year for Econoscope that we are breaking into. Unfortunately events are like birds. The birds do not recognise country boundaries and events do not acknowledge man-made time barriers.

Inflation does not celebrate a new year, nor does it honour the celebrators by its absence. So is the labour shortage. Yet barriers are an occasion for us to think and ponder.

I owe a great deal to the readers who communicate their responses. In addition, I would like to thank the Jordan Times staff for their encouragement and patience.

SPORTS NEWS BRIEFS

Everton, Nottingham Forest draw

LONDON, Jan. 3 (AFP). — A penalty-piece settled the New Year's match of the day with Trevor Ross salvaging a vital point for Everton four minutes from time at Nottingham Forest. A one-one draw was a fair result for the league's pacesetters. But Liverpool, proving they can still win matches, although below their best, moved menacingly nearer a title challenge by beating Middlesbrough two-nil.

Relegation now looks a near certainty for Frank McLintock's Leicester City, who went down again yesterday, this time at the hands of Manchester City. That defeat leaves them three points adrift of Newcastle United and six points away from safety at the bottom of the English First Division.

Forest, pulling in their second successive 40,000 crowd, were given the start they ne-

eded when John Robertson scored from the penalty spot after twenty five minutes and, although neither side showed their best form, the goal looked as if it would suffice, until Tony Burns handled in the goal.

Two pieces of individual skill took Liverpool to the same number of points as their Merseyside rivals Everton, a superb header by David Johnson, in the thirty-ninth minute, and a great solo goal by Eire's Steve Heighway, eleven minutes from time, gave them the points over Middlesbrough. Manchester City, hitting back after a disastrous run in early December, became one of only three clubs to gain maximum points over the four holiday games with their one-nil win at Leicester. A seventieth-minute penalty by Gary Owen settled the issue.

As Leicester struggled, so

Newcastle thrived, and caused a big form upset by winning two-nil at Leeds, their first win at Elland Road for twelve seasons. They coasted home with two goals from Micky Burns.

Birmingham sank Manchester United two-one at Old Trafford, for their first away win in three months, while Derek Hales scored six minutes from time to earn the "Hammers" a point at Norwich.

Tottenham squandered a two-nil lead at Sheffield United to settle for a two-all draw in Division Two, enabling Southampton and Blackburn Rovers to keep in contention at the top.

Two other sides to gain maximum points during the holiday programme were Oldham Athletic who beat Blackpool two-one and Fourth Division leaders Watford.

Glasgow Rangers beat Partick Thistle two-one to retain their two-point lead in the

Scottish Premier League, but Aberdeen won at home before 25,000 their biggest crowd of the season, to remain close up in second position.

The Scottish league race is now between these two clubs for both Dundee United and Partick Thistle were beaten and Glasgow Celtic, the reigning champions slipped to yet another defeat and are now eleven points behind Rangers whom they meet on Saturday.

Celtic lost one-nil at home to Motherwell.

Close on 30,000 fans watched the Partick-Rangers match and all the goals came in the second half. Derek Johnstone put Rangers ahead. John Frame equalised for Partick in seventy minutes but Gordon Smith scored Rangers' winner five minutes later.

Substitute Ian Fleming scored the only goal of the game at Aberdeen against Dundee United.

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USSR, Morocco to meet over \$2 billion phosphate deal

RABAT, Jan. 3 (AFP). — A large Soviet delegation is due here shortly to finalise details of a \$2 billion contract to work on phosphate deposits at Meskala near Marrakesh, informed sources said last night.

The 30-year contract, termed the Deal of the Century by King Hassan, involves starting production during the next eight to ten years, the Soviet

Union paying for geological surveys and the necessary mine, railroad and port infrastructure.

The Soviet Ambassador to Morocco Dmitri Gorunov had a meeting with Foreign Minister Mohamed Boucetta yesterday to discuss the deal, the sources said.

Under a parallel agreement expected to be concluded dur-

ing the delegation's visit, the Soviet Union will supply Morocco with oil, timber and chemicals in exchange for supplies of up to 10 million tons of phosphates a year from Meskala.

The Meskala deposits are estimated at roughly 8-10,000 million cubic metres.

Nevertheless, a number of technical and financial problems remain to be settled between the two governments. Soviet engineers have said in-depth geological probes are essential to determine the exact amount of investments and hence the long-term price of phosphate exports.

The Soviet Union and Morocco are also envisaging another agreement of fishing similar to that already operable between the Soviet Union and Mauritania.

Soviet sources in Rabat said that Morocco would this year be the Soviet Union's biggest trade partner in North Africa overtaking Algeria.



AN ABOVE-AVERAGE YEAR FOR RHINE WINE -- Grape-picking can be fun, especially if the sun is still shining in late autumn, which is not always the case in Germany. This season's vintage, now safely in the vats, looks likely to prove both plentiful and good. While it is maturing ministry officials in Mainz anticipate the inauguration of a special device to conduct automatically and inexpensively the full range of chemical analyses of which quality wines are subjected. The device has been commissioned by the Ministry of Viticulture of the Rhineland-Palatinate, which accounts for three out of four German vineyards. It should not be long before all the authorities responsible for granting a wine official approval are equipped with the new labour-saving device. (Dad photo)



\$ closes at new low in Germany

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan. 3 (R). — The U.S. dollar was fixed at a record low of 2.0845 marks on the West German Currency Market today against 2.1025 yesterday.

The West German Central

Bank (Bundesbank) bought \$6.7 million at the fixing, dealers said.

The dollar's fix was almost two pence below its previous record low of reached last Thursday.

Trading picked up this mor-

ning on the re-opening of several European centres after the New Year break. Dealers said general pressure, focussed especially on demand for sterling and the Swiss franc, forced the dollar down. Gold jumped \$2.75 to \$167.875.

News Focus

Where does the £ go next?

Sterling has been rising fast against the dollar, masking its movements against other currencies. The pound should continue to rise against the dollar, but may well continue to lose ground against other major currencies.

By Colin Millham
The Financial Times Money Markets Correspondent

LONDON -- Despite all the fuss when it was announced that sterling was to be floated on the foreign exchange market at the end of October the exercise has not turned out quite as expected.

When the pound was set free it was naturally assumed that it would float upwards. The arguments presented at the time suggested that this would be good for inflation -- by helping to reduce the price of imports -- but would make life that much harder for exporters, and might have a damaging effect on Britain's competitiveness in overseas markets.

There was even talk of parliament of the government being manoeuvred into a political trap, but by and large most commentators seemed to think that it was the right decision.

"Hot" money had been pouring into London, and the easiest way to reduce the pressure was to allow the pound to rise, since expectation of sterling going up was a major reason for the arrival of the funds in the first place. This is what the game is all about as far as the international speculators are concerned.

A quick glance at the front page of the Financial Times

will show that the pound has indeed advanced. It is now worth about \$1.85 compared with \$1.77 at the end of October, and its trade-weighted index stands at 63.4, against 62.5 on Oct. 28. Very roughly this means that sterling is worth just over 60 per cent of its value at December 1971.

Just looking at the value against the dollar is very misleading, however, since the dollar itself has fallen like a stone against many other currencies over the last two months or so. The trade-weighted index is a better guide, but even this fails to show sterling's movement against many of our competitors.

A similar problem can arise when looking at the dollar. Trade between the U.S. and Canada is on such a big scale that the Canadian dollar's movements have a very large influence on any calculation.

The Canadian dollar itself has been very volatile recently, and a situation is often created where the U.S. dollar falls sharply against most major currencies, but because its Canadian counterpart is even weaker the U.S. dollar appears to be rising on a trade-weighted basis.

The dollar's fall in recent weeks has very effectively

masked the movements of sterling. Since the pound was allowed to float it has lost ground against the German mark, the Swiss franc, and the Japanese yen. On the other hand it is slightly firmer against the weaker European currencies, such as the Italian lira, French franc and Swedish krona.

Several other currencies have been pulled up by the mark, because along with the German unit they are members of the European joint float agreement, commonly known as the "snake". These currencies are obliged to maintain their currencies within set limits against each other, and this has meant that the pound has lost ground against the Dutch guilder, Belgian franc, and Norwegian kroner. It is also slightly weaker against the Danish kroner.

As an example, before sterling was allowed to "rise" one pound would have bought 3.98 Swiss francs, but on Dec. 15 the seller would have acquired only 3.82. At the same time the pound has fallen from 4.02 marks to 3.95, and from 4.31 Dutch guilders to 4.27.

None of this does much to foster the idea of European monetary union, since the present members of the joint float would probably shudder at the thought of sterling, the French franc, and the Italian lira renewing their membership of the "snake" even though they have all been part of the system in the past.

Where does all this leave sterling? There was a great deal of ballyhoo when the decision was made to float the pound, but it all seems to have had

Carter stresses support of Indo-U.S. Joint Commission

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The Indo-U.S. Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation held a two-hour meeting here this morning to discuss ways of strengthening relations between the two countries in the fields of economy, culture and science and technology.

The meeting was co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mr. Vance, who is visiting New Delhi with President Jimmy Carter, stressed his government's continued support of the Joint Commission. He said his government attached "great value to the linkages and cooperative relations that are within the capacity of the commission to foster."

During the meeting the commission endorsed the reports of the three sub-commissions -- Economic and Commercial, Education and Culture and Science and Technology -- all of which had met previously in 1976 and 1977.

Earlier in the morning, Mr. Vance and Mr. Vajpayee signed a memorandum of understanding which would result in India receiving remote sensing data direct from the satellite Landsat.

The Landsat would provide information which would be useful in estimating crops and yields, range land management, forest and water resources, land use planning, weather data and planning of large river basins and deserts such as the Great Indian Desert.

New international sugar agreement began Jan. 1

LONDON, Jan. 3 (AFP). — A new international sugar agreement came into force on Jan. 1 the Sugar Council announced today.

A council spokesman said that the necessary number of countries has signed and agreed to put the agreement into operation by the end of 1977 in all 23 exporting countries and nine importer nations.

The Sugar Council will hold its first meeting under the new pact on Monday, Jan. 16 in London. The main item on the agenda will be the level of export restrictions and the date when these restrictions will apply.

Israeli prices rose 4 1/2% in '77

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (AP). — Prices in Israel rose by 4 1/2 per cent last year while the gross national product increased by only one per cent, according to preliminary figures issued here yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Private consumption increased by between one and two per cent while public consumption, including defence spending, fell by eight per cent.

The bureau said Israel's foreign trade balance deficit had consequently dropped by \$3.5 billion at the end of 1977 to \$2.2 billion at the end of 1977.

Danish foreign minister goes to Iran to discuss ban on Danish imports

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 3 (AFP). — Danish Foreign Minister Knud Borg Andersen today left for Tehran to discuss the Iranian Chamber of Commerce ban on Danish imports.

The Chamber of Commerce took this step as a protest against "too lenient" treatment handed out to 16 Iranian students who recently occupied

the Iranian Embassy here and smashed portraits of the Shah.

The students were given three week prison sentences but the decision was later overruled. The government then expelled the students to West Germany, France, Sweden and Austria, where they came from.

A similar ban has been imposed on imports from Iran.

VALLETTA, (WFS). — For two such widely disparate and distant countries, China (area 3.7 million square miles, population 800 million) and the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta (area 130 square miles, population 300,000) have enjoyed remarkably close and friendly relations over the last five years.

During his recent visit to Peking, at the beginning of November, where he concluded an economic and technical cooperation agreement, Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister, spoke appreciatively of China's aid to the island and her support for Malta's attempts to reduce superpower tension in the Mediterranean.

Malta and China established diplomatic relations in January 1972, and in the following April Dom Mintoff made his first official visit to Peking, where he negotiated an interest-free loan from China of nearly \$17 million. Malta is due to begin paying back the loan in 1984.

The money has been used to finance development projects provided by China, including a large dry dock, glass-works and textile and chocolate factories.

The Chinese have also signed a long-term contract with Sea Malta, the island's shipping company to handle the trans-shipment of Chinese exports to southern Mediterranean countries.

The relations of Mr. Mintoff's Labour government with other socialist states have not, however, followed the easy flow of the entente with China. The Maltese premier arrived in Peking after a visit to Tripoli, the Libyan capital,

where he had a day's talks with the Libyan leader, Col. Qadhafi. Like the Chinese, the Libyans have close relations with Malta's Labour government but of a much more complex nature.

The Libyan government appears eager to enlist Malta, only some 200 miles off the Libyan coast, into membership of its own peculiarly messianic anti-Western camp. During a visit to Malta in May last year, Col. Qadhafi bitterly attacked Malta's traditional links with the West, particularly Britain (the former colonial power in Malta), which has an agreement for base facilities in Malta until 1979.

Libya's readiness to pronounce on Malta's relations with other countries has caused some unease and embarrassment in Maltese political circles. When a Libyan delegation arrived for the Conference of Mediterranean Socialist and Progressive Parties in June it took the Maltese government somewhat unawares, producing a ready-made final resolution with a strongly anti-Western tone.

The Maltese government was also concerned at the unrepresentative choices of many of the delegates to the conference, many of them apparently sponsored and paid for by Libya.

Some of them came from such distant non-Mediterranean countries as Thailand and the Philippines, and included members of the Patani Liberation Front, which claims to represent 4 million oppressed Muslims in Thailand, and representatives of the Muslim rebels in Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, both of

whom have received aid from Libya.

The atmosphere of the conference, intended to be a demonstration of Maltese-Libyan cooperation, suffered even more when the Libyan Prime Minister, Major Jalloud, was absent from the conference hall during Mr. Mintoff's key speech.

There are also more concrete examples of Malta's problems in dealing with its powerful oil-rich neighbour. Since 1973, Libya has cut into Malta's share of the air space between the two countries until now when the island has only some 160,000 square miles.

Tripoli has also so far refused to establish a median line between Malta and Libya, and claims all the seabed 200 miles north of the coast up to Malta's territorial waters, effectively depriving the Maltese of the right to prospect for oil in the area.

China remains the only communist country to have a resident ambassador in Malta; the Soviet Union has been trying for some time to obtain agreement to establish an embassy there despite Mr. Mintoff's initial friendliness towards Moscow before he came to power in 1971. The Soviet Union has also sought to set up a trade mission in Malta, but has so far been unsuccessful in obtaining government approval.

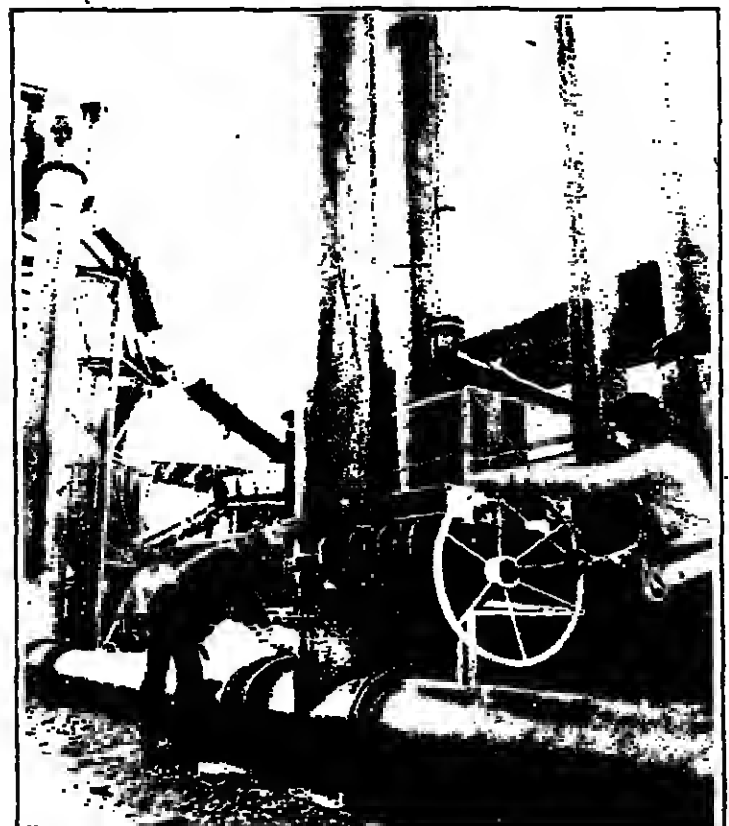
As Malta's relations with China grow closer, those with the Soviet Union and other communist countries appear to be on the wane. During his latest visit to Peking, his third in five years, Mr. Mintoff provoked a walk-out by representatives of eight communist countries at a banquet given in his honour by the Chinese State Council.

Thanking the Chinese for their help to Malta, Mr. Mintoff said it was "a great eye-opener to us to discover who were the genuine upholders of independence and socialist ideals. In the history of the Mediterranean, which is slowly but steadily emerging, it will be recorded that, although the Soviet Union has much to gain militarily by Malta's single-handed efforts to drive out NATO from her soil, the Soviet Union remained aloof and denied Malta even the most rudimentary exchange of information."

At this the Soviet ambassador, followed by those of East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia and Cuba walked out of the hall. Observers believe that this is the first time an official guest of China has produced such a reaction.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian filis	315.00/317.00
U.S. dollar	604.00/608.00
W. German mark	150.90/151.80
French franc	67.60/68.00
Swiss franc	157.20/158.10
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.20/36.40
Japanese yen (for every 100)	131.90/132.70
Dutch guilder	138.90/139.70
Belgian franc (for every ten)	96.10/96.70
Swedish crown	67.40/67.80



THE WATER CONVEYOR -- Pipelined water as a means of conveying freight is the subject of what is probably a unique research installation at Hannover University of Technology, Germany. The aim is to investigate the possibility of piping gravel, coal, ore, manganese nodules, liquid concrete and synthetics. Trials are to be conducted over a three-year period to determine the requisite engine and pump capacity and the commodities that can economically be transported in this way. At present a 600-h.p. diesel engine is pumping fifty cubic metres of water round a 240-metre pipeline circuit, conveying fifteen cubic metres of sand at a speed of five metres per second. (Dad photo)

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 1978

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early in the day you are able to uncover information you need with ease, but in order to continue, it is necessary that you don't allow yourself to be distracted by outside activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You get tidbits of information you did not expect but which can be most helpful to you now. Take no chances with your health.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study your relationships with associates and be alert to remarks made by those who are usually reticent in doing so. Be logical.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can work along progressive lines now and advance in your line of endeavor. Be thoughtful of mate and get good results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have fine creative ideas now and should put them in operation without delay. Be sure you spend your money wisely.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study the situation at home well and try to improve it in every way you can. Study every detail of a project you are working on.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can now find the right information you need to put your affairs in better working order. Don't neglect important correspondence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your monetary position and plan to have greater abundance in the days ahead. Strive for increased happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can easily gain personal aims at this which you have long awaited. You may get a call from a friend that can be most helpful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't make comments about something you don't fully comprehend. Spend more time with the one you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to differentiate between your closest friends and mere acquaintances and put each in their rightful category.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some responsibility in the business world should be handled quickly and well. Find the right appliances to make your work easier.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A new project you have in mind should be studied well and all facts and figures understood before going ahead with it.

PEANUTS



ANDY GAPP



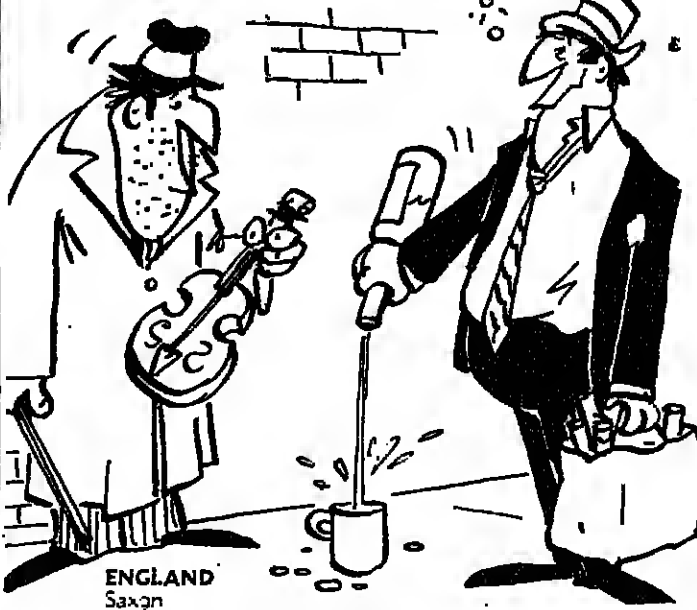
MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ QJ106
♥ AKJ
♦ A
♣ 108632

WEST
♦ 754
♥ 876
♦ K1082
♣ K54

EAST
♦ A98
♥ Q10952
♦ 943
♣ J7

SOUTH
♦ K32
♥ 43
♦ QJ765
♣ AQ9

The bidding:
South West North East
1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
2♦ Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Eight of ♠.

The eight of hearts was led at both tables, with dummy winning. A club was led to the queen. For China, M. F. Tai won the king and continued hearts. Though the jack of clubs dropped, declarer had no way to gather nine quick tricks, and when East gained the lead with the ace of spades, he cashed enough hearts to set the contract.

In the other room, Sweden took his own advice and allowed the queen of clubs to hold. He hoped declarer would return to dummy for another club finesse.

Unfortunately for the best-laid plans, Patrick Huang now turned his attention to spades, leading to the queen and then back to the king. Since East could not win the ace and attack any suit profitably, he elected to duck both times.

Per-Olov Sundelin's advice in the Bols Bridge Tips competition was to hold up a king. In the recent World Team Championship played in Manila, he was bitten by his own tip.

At both tables of the Sweden-China match, North-South were employing weak no trump opening bids. At both tables North checked on the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit via the Stayman Convention, then settled in three no trump after South's denial.

Now declarer needed no more tricks from spades. As long as clubs were 3-2, his contract was secure. He cashed the ace of clubs and conceded a trick to the king. As a result, he coasted home with two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four clubs.

Sweden lost 13 International Match Points on this hand, which cost them any chance they might have had of reaching the final of the world championship.

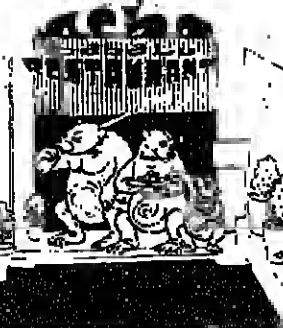
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First Chinese restaurant in
Jordan.
First Circle, Jabal Amman, near
the Abiliah School or CMS.
Tel. 39968. Open daily from
noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
to midnight.
Also take home service order
by phone.

The Diplomat

First Circle, Jabal Amman.
Tel. 25582.
Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Restaurant, coffee-shop, sn-
ack bar and patisserie.
Oriental and European spe-
cialties.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

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Armenian group blasts two Turkish concerns in London, Brussels

BRUSSELS, Jan. 3 (Agencies). — "New Armenian Resistance" (NAR) group was responsible for bomb attempts against Turkish premises in London and Brussels early today, it was announced here today.

An anonymous telephone call to the Brussels bureau of Agence France Presse (AFP) said the bombs were in "show the Turkish fascist state and

Western imperialism that the Armenian people have an the inalienable right to exist.

The NAR calls on all Armenians to take up arms... for a re-united, independent and socialist Armenia," the communiqué stated.

One bomb shattered windows of a building here where the Turkish Embassy's Financial Counsellor's Office is located. The other bomb was placed

against the wall of a Turkish bank in London.

The Brussels bomb went off in the entrance of the building housing the Turkish Embassy's Financial Section, and shattered windows in houses nearby.

The embassy itself is some metres away but was not affected.

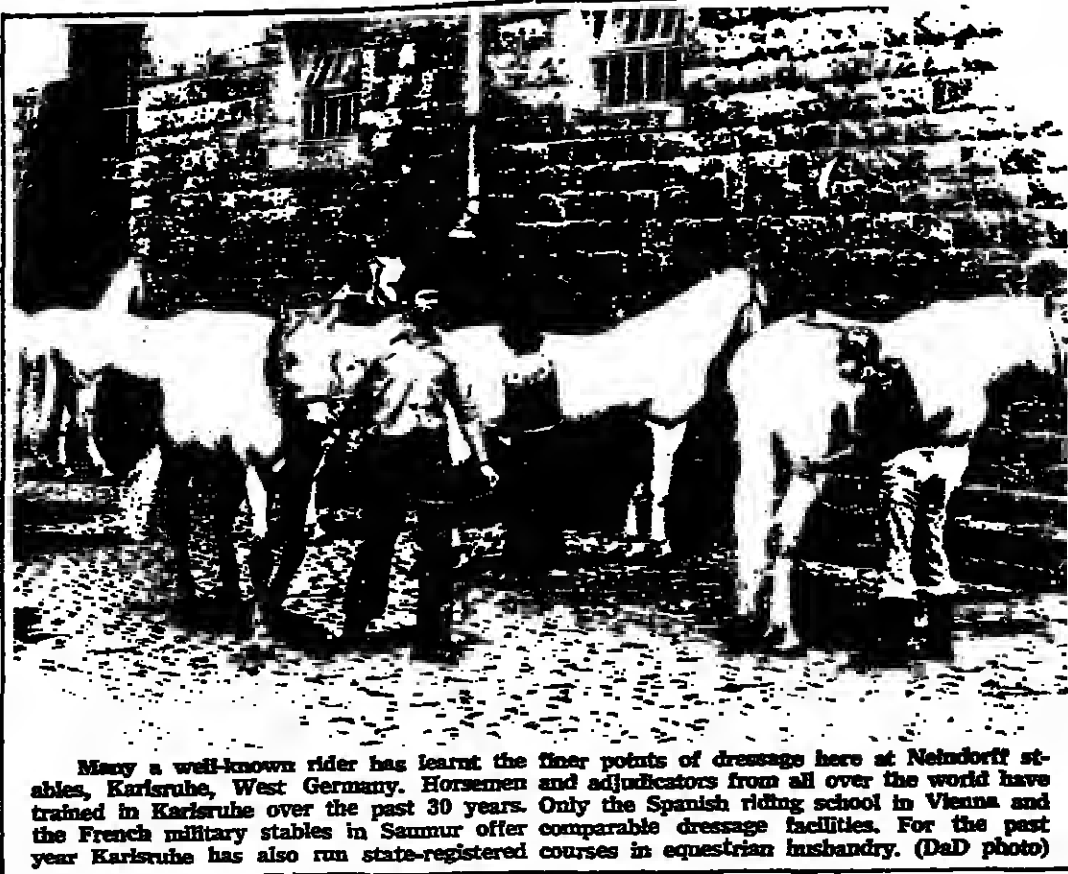
The explosion caused no structural damage to the building, and embassy staff would be able to resume work in the damaged section before long, according to Turkish Embassy officials here.

The London bomb exploded outside the Turkish Bank Ltd. early today shattering windows but causing little other damage. No one was hurt.

It was the second bomb blast in London in three days. Police said the device had been left in the doorway of the Turkish bank in Haringay, north London. Troops put out a small fire.

Two Syrian Embassy staff were killed by a car bomb in central London on Saturday night.

An hour after the London explosion, which occurred just before 0300 GMT, an anonymous caller telephoned Reuters and also said the "New Armenian Resistance" were responsible.



Many a well-known rider has learnt the finer points of dressage here at Neindorf stables, Karlsruhe, West Germany. Horsemen and adjudicators from all over the world have trained in Karlsruhe over the past 30 years. Only the Spanish riding school in Vienna and the French military stables in Samur offer comparable dressage facilities. For the past year Karlsruhe has also run state-registered courses in equestrian husbandry. (Dad photo)

Cambodian-Vietnamese war marks time as minor clashes reported

BANGKOK, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam marked time today with clashes reportedly on a small scale as the two sides exchanged violent and contradictory statements.

A Thai military spokesman

said that the heaviest fighting appeared to be limited to the parrot's beak region of Prey Veng and Svey Reng Provinces. This sector is a wedge of Cambodian territory pointing in the direction of Ho Chi Minh City.

Fighting in the northernmost Provinces of Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri and also in the southern Province of Kampot was described as light skirmishes.

The Thai military spokesman expressed the view that the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh was not immediately threatened.

The Cambodian government in its New Year's Eve communiqué repeated on the following two days said that "several Vietnamese divisions" had reached positions around Phnom Penh in a radius of about 100 kms.

A diplomatic source said that high-altitude aerial photographs taken by the latest scientific means confirmed the

pause in the fighting. But the war of communiques between Phnom Penh and Hanoi continued unabated.

The Cambodian Radio today broadcast an official communiqué rejecting the Vietnamese offer to negotiate as a trap.

The broadcast said the offer made last Saturday was "a ruse that shows Vietnam's real aim which is to expand at the expense of Cambodia by installing its troops on Cambodian soil."

The Cambodian government said it would only agree to negotiate when all foreign troops had withdrawn from Cambodia and, in the meantime, Cambodian revolutionary forces should unhesitatingly destroy all Vietnamese armed forces.

Hanoi Radio meanwhile broadcast a communiqué giving the history of the conflict between the two countries and it blamed Cambodia for the present situation.

Indian official "very suspicious" about Jumbo crash

BOMBAY, Jan. 3 (R). — An aviation official said last night he was "very suspicious" about the cause of Sunday's disaster in which an Air India Jumbo jet with 213 people aboard exploded in mid-air and plunged into the sea.

"Modern planes do not fall out of the sky just like that. The whole thing is very suspicious. But we cannot speculate now and we do not know whether it was sabotage or some other cause," the official said.

At least 17 bodies were recovered from the sea and some parts of the shattered Boeing 747 located today. But an Indian navy officer said: "We are still looking for the main body of the plane."

The Dubai-bound plane took off from Bombay's Santa Cruz International Airport on Sunday night after a 12-hour delay due to engine trouble and was lost by radar trackers minutes later. Eyewitnesses said they heard an explosion and then saw a ball of fire falling from the sky.

It was the third worst disaster in aviation history and India's worst crash.

Thirty-seven women, two infants and 14 children were among the passengers. There were 179 Indians, two Americans and nine Arab passengers, seven of whom were citizens of the United Arab Emirates, in addition to 23 crew.

An official inquiry into the accident has started and officials have expressed bewilderment as to why the plane should suddenly explode.

A fisherman who saw the crash told reporters: "It went off like a bomb and then a huge fire engulfed it and it died into the sea." Another eyewitness spoke of "a thunderous explosion."

Most of the Indians on board the plane were on their way to Dubai to take up new jobs, but the foreign passengers have proved difficult to identify.

An airline official said: "All we can say at the moment is

that seven were from the United Arab Emirates. But the two Americans had Mexican names and they gave their address as post box numbers in Saudi Arabia." Their passports had been issued in San Francisco.

Santa Cruz Airport has seen two other accidents in the past three years.

In October 1976 an Indian Airlines domestic airliner crashed at the airport killing all 85 people aboard. In January 1975 an Air France Jumbo caught fire while taking off. The 300 people on board escaped unharmed, but the plane was destroyed.

Kyprianou ready to talk Cyprus with Ecevit

NICOSIA, Jan. 3 (AFP). — Cypriot President Spiros Kyprianou declared here today that he was prepared to meet with Turkish Premier-designate Bulent Ecevit to discuss Cypriot problems including the case of people reported missing on the island.

Mr. Kyprianou said he would welcome any "improvement" in Turkey's policies toward Cyprus under Mr. Ecevit, but that he was not very hopeful that it would occur. "Judging from Mr. Ecevit's public statements up to now, no one can be very optimistic because he was supported very extremist positions in the Cypriot affair," he continued.

He added that he hoped Mr. Ecevit, who was Turkish Premier in July 1974 when Turkish troops landed on the island, would adopt "a different and constructive attitude."

Guerrillas shell major Rhodesian tourist hotel

SALISBURY, Jan. 3 (AFP). — African nationalist guerrillas fired on the Leopard Rock Hotel on Rhodesia's eastern border 40 kms from Umtali early today, damaging the roof with a heavy weapon, a hotel spokesman said.

About seven rockets or mortar shells hit the building, a popular tourist resort, at 330 a.m.

"The roof is badly damaged but no one was injured," the spokesman said.

Only five rooms were occupied at the time, although the hotel was fully booked during the Christmas and New Year periods.

Leopard Rock is one of Rhodesia's most picturesque bot-

les, lying in the Vumba Mountains along the Mozambique border.

The spokesman was unable to say how long the attack lasted or whether it was launched from inside Rhodesia or from across the border.

"If you have even been under fire you will know that it is not easy to estimate these things," he said.

Several missiles missed the hotel and thudded into the

surrounding rocks, the spokesman said.

"There was also a lot of small arms fire which hit the building," he said.

Rhodesian troops have mounted follow-up operations in the mountainous area but the attack has not yet been officially confirmed by Combined Operations Headquarters.

An official spokesman said a communiqué might be issued later.

Black Rhodesian guerrillas led by Robert Mugabe, co-leader with Joshua Nkomo of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, are known to be based in Mozambique along the border.

The attack is the first in the New Year on a tourist resort and the first ever of its kind on a hotel near the border with Mozambique.

Tourist resorts near the Victoria Falls on the northwestern border with Zambia were repeatedly attacked at the end of 1977.

Leopard Rock Hotel was started by Italian prisoners of war in 1944 and the original central core of the building completed in 1946. It has since been extended.

The sight from space...

MOSCOW, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The collision of two super-tankers off the South African coast on Dec. 16 was observed by the two Soviet cosmonauts aboard their orbiting space station Salyut-6, the Soviet Radio reported today. It said cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgi Grechko saw a big oil slick drifting far to the starboard of the collision scene near Port Elizabeth. They also saw a gigantic meteor fall, the radio reported. Grechko said flames of every colour flared up as the meteor ploughed through the atmosphere and disappeared. Romanenko said in a radio conversation: "We were really lucky that the meteor missed us." Then the two cosmonauts broke into laughter. They boarded the Salyut space capsule on Dec. 11.

Despite dangers, troubles Heyerdahl continues on Tigris

Tigris, the replica ancient Sumerian boat of explorer, Prof. Thor Heyerdahl, is continuing its historic voyage retracing a journey 5,000 years old between the "Garden of Eden" and new civilisations after surviving treacherous seas in the Arabian Gulf.

BAGHDAD, Prof. Thor Heyerdahl's latest epic voyage, in a reed boat constructed like an ancient Sumerian vessel, is continuing despite running into trouble in the Arabian Gulf. The world-famous Norwegian anthropologist and explorer stressed in a radio message that his reed boat, the Tigris, is fully seaworthy, although it had to be towed out of shallows around an island off Kuwait.

The boat set off on Nov. 23 from Qurna, Iraq, on a journey of 3,000 kms. and more to the west coast of India or even further, to South America.

Prof. Heyerdahl — world renowned for the Kon-Tiki expedition across the Pacific in

1947 and the Atlantic crossing in the reed ship Ra II in 1970 — hopes to prove that the Sumerians, who built the earliest Middle East civilisation, could have had trade links with the Indian sub-continent.

The Tigris is 18-metres long and has a 10-man international crew. Talking to reporters before leaving Iraq, 63-year old Prof. Heyerdahl said: "We will sail the boat as long as it stays afloat and as far as it goes, even if it takes a year."

When the boat passes through the Straits of Hormuz and enters the Indian Ocean, depending upon the conditions and how the boat is handling, the decision will be made whether to head southeast and try to reach the Indian coast or to head southwest and try to make the coast of Africa. Prof. Heyerdahl hopes they may eventually get as far as South America, where similar boats made of reeds are used by some American Indians. Indians from Lake Titicaca in the Andes helped in the building of the Tigris, along with Arabs from the marshes of southern Iraq.

Prof. Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki was an Inca-type balsam raft.

and the idea of that expedition was to show that it was possible that the Polynesian islands could have been settled by sailors from South America. Ra II was built from papyrus stalks and closely followed ancient Egyptian design; the purpose of its trip being to show that the Egyptians might have reached the New World centuries before the Europeans.

The Tigris has been built from Mesopotamian berdi reeds according to early Sumerian designs and 30 metric tons of reeds have been used in its construction. Prof. Heyerdahl is seeking to prove that the ancient Sumerians could have established trade links with early Indian civilisations, with peoples along the east coast of Africa and even as far afield as South America.

Sumerian inscriptions Backing up his contention

are inscriptions found on clay tablets in archaeological sites in the area around the Tigris which was the fabled "Garden of Eden". The inscriptions are similar to those found on the Island of Saharain in the Gulf, in the Indus Valley in India and in Egypt. Archaeologists believe that contact existed between these regions since the earliest times, but the travelling routes and means of transport remain a riddle, which this present expedition may go a long way towards solving.

The Sumerians were flourishing in 3,500 B.C., and by that time had developed a type of cuneiform writing. They lived in the rich area between and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers known as Mesopotamia.

The Tigris experiment is expected to give the answers to a whole series of questions, not least on the buoyancy, navigability and range of reed ships equipped with nothing but oars and a primitive square sail, as Prof. Heyerdahl's boat is.

The Tigris was built on the advice of the marsh Arabs, who told Prof. Heyerdahl that the reeds for it must be cut in August to possess maximum water resistance, as the reeds for their own swamp boats are.

The reeds for Ra I and Ra II were cut at the sources of the Nile in December. Ra I was abandoned shortly before reaching Barbados, with the ropes on one side chafed off, while Ra II made the complete voyage, but was so waterlogged at the end that branches were growing on the deck.

The Tigris has attracted great interest here, and thousands watched when the vessel was launched down a wooden slipway. She sails under a United

Nations flag, and the Gulf is one of the most perilous stretches of the voyage. Because the boat is made of reeds, it does not show up on the radar of any of the super-tankers which criss-cross the Gulf. One of those could run over the Tigris at night, even with its warning lights, without even knowing it.

Prof. Heyerdahl and his crew are also studying the degree of oil pollution in the Gulf, which is now believed to be considerable.

The Tigris experiment, whether it fails or succeeds, is also going to be extremely well publicised: it is being financed by a world-wide broadcasting consortium, including the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Japanese, American, Swedish, French and Canadian T.V. companies.

World Feature Services

Another Filipino fire claims 15 dead

MANILA, Jan. 3 (R). — At least 15 people died here today when fire broke out in a Chinese temple after their noonday prayers. Four people died on a fire escape on the third floor of the temple. The other victims, including some children, were trapped inside the blazing building. Police said the fire, which was brought under control after 45 minutes, could have been started by lit candles falling from the temple altar. They said there were 15 confirmed dead, but the number could be higher. This was the third large fire in Manila in the past two months. Forty-seven people, including foreign tourists, died in a hotel fire on Nov. 14. A fire in a mental hospital on Dec. 16 killed 33 male patients.

Callaghan in Asian sub-continent

LONDON, Jan. 3 (AFP). — British Prime Minister James Callaghan embarks today on an official ten-day tour of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan during which immigration and trade are expected to be high on his agenda.

Arab Gulf states open health meet

DOHA, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The Fourth Conference of Health Ministers from Arab Gulf states began here today. Qatar's Health Minister Khalid bin Mohammed Al Manai, elected conference President, stressed the need for close cooperation among the states on health matters.

More men than women in UAE

ABU DHABI, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The population of the United Arab Emirates on Dec. 31 was 882,000, the daily Al Itihad reported here today, citing a study by the emirate's Statistics Centre. The study said that 613,700 were men and 268,000 women. There has been an influx of foreign male labourers.

NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

AMANDA GLI-BAND

HOTEL JORDAN

LOS ARRIBENOS DUO SUD AMERICANO

CROWN ROTISSERIE

FOR RESERVATIONS DIAL 41361, 5



Mixed female and male group perform the Pakistani folk dance of the Psa. (PTDC photo)